

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4446

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

UNCLAS PARIS 28148

NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: PREPARATIONS FOR EUROPEAN MINISTERS OF EDUCATION CONFERENCE,
BUCHAREST

1. UNESCO DG MAHEU HELD INFORMATION MEETING FOR EUROPEAN PERM REPS
ON OCT. 30 ON FORTHCOMING SECOND CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN MINISTERS OF
EDUCATION TO BE HELD IN BUCHAREST NOVEMBER 26-DECEMBER 4, 1973. US
PERM DEL WAS SOLE NON-EUROPEAN PERM DEL TO BE REPRESENTED AT
MEETING.

2. FULL KIT OF DOCUMENTS PREPARED FOR CONF AIRPOUCHED DEPT ON
OCT 31.

3. DG SUGGESTED THAT PARTICIPATING DELEGATIONS MIGHT INCLUDE
MINISTER OF EDUCATION, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MINISTRY OR EQUIVALENT,
AND DIPLOMAT TO HANDLE QUESTIONS POSED IN ITEMS 7, 8 AND 9 OF
AGENDA. ITEM 7 IS DEDICATED TO REPORTS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN HIGHER
EDUCATION IN EUROPE SINCE VIENNA CONF OF 1967; ITEM 8 TO CHANGES IN
STRUCTURES, CURRICULA AND METHODS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND OF SHIFT
IN EMPHASIS IN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS TOWARDS LIFE-LONG EDUCATION;
AND ITEM 9 TO REPORTS ON EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION.

4. OF 32 EUROPEAN STATES INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN CONF ONLY
NINE HAVE REPLIED TO DATE, DG REPORTED. HE HOPED TO HEAR FROM ALL
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WELL IN ADVANCE OF MEETING.

5. CHIEF OF STATE OF ROMANIA WILL OPEN CONF ON NOV 26 AND ALL EUROPEAN AMBASSADORS IN BUCHAREST WILL BE INVITED TO ATTEND ALONG WITH DELEGATES. ALL OTHER MEETINGS OF CONFERENCE, WHICH WILL BE DIVIDED INTO TWO COMMISSIONS FOR SUBSTANTIVE CONSIDERATIONS OF ITEMS 8 AND 9, WILL BE HELD AT HOTEL INTERCONTINENTAL.

6. DURING QUESTION PERIOD, CZECH PERM REP ASKED IF QUESTION OF EQUIVALENCE OF DEGREES HAD BEEN STUDIED IN DETAIL FOR CONFERENCE AND WHAT FUNDAMENTAL HE QUESTIONS WOULD BE CONSIDERED. DG REPLIED THAT EQUIVALENCE OF DEGREE ISSUE WOULD BE A FUNDAMENTAL ONE FOR CONFERENCE TO CONSIDER BUT FOUND IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO ISOLATE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS TO WHICH CONFERENCE SHOULD CONFINE ITSELF. HE SAID CONF PROVIDED EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO EXPOSE FUNDAMENTAL EUROPEAN PROBLEMS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND ANALYZE SOME OF THEM IN DEPTH.

7. DG ALSO EXPLAINED PROCEDURES BEING PLANNED FOR CONF RESOLUTIONS: TWO COMMISSIONS WILL EACH HAVE SMALL RESOLUTION DRAFTING COMMITTEE AND PLENARY WILL HAVE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE. RESOLUTIONS EMANATING FROM SUCH CONFERNCES ARE IMPORTANT DG SAID FOR BOTH PARTICIPATING STATES AND FOR UNESCO FOR FOLLOW-UP WORK. DG ADDED THAT PROPOSALS EMANATING FROM CONFERENCE COULD BE INCLUDED IN UNESCO'S DOCUMENTS 18 C/4 AND 18 C/5 TO BE PRESENTED TO 18TH GC.

8. PERM DEL ASSUMES US WILL, AS IN 1967, SEND OBSERVER DELEGATION TO THIS IMPORTANT HIGHER EDUC CONFERENCE. IT IS RECOMMENDED ONE MEMBER OF PERM DEL BE INCLUDED ON OBSERVER DEL. IRWIN

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